

**Virginia Department of Health
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #8
May 22, 2006**

WORLDWIDE UPDATE: As of May 19, the number of human cases of H5N1 influenza confirmed by the World Health Organization was 217, including 123 deaths (56.7%). The changes from last week included one additional case from Egypt and 8 additional cases from Indonesia. This strain of the influenza A virus has now been confirmed in birds in over 50 countries.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office

- The next Pan Flu Advisory Committee meeting has been scheduled in June 28th 0900-1300, at Expressions in the Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center.
- VDH continues a series of Community Based Emergency Response System (CBERS) Isolation and Quarantine Exercises. In addition to Health participants, Emergency Management, Law Enforcement, Judicial / Legal, Medical Examiner, Hospitals and Mental Health partners have participated.
- VDH representatives presented information on pandemic influenza preparedness at the Bon Secours Care Management Symposium and at a meeting of facility administrators from the Virginia Association of Nonprofit Homes for Adults.
- Meeting to coordinate MD and DC participation in VDH Oct 23-26 PanFlu Response Exercise scheduled on June 30.
- Upcoming Regional and Local PanFlu Summits are scheduled as follows:

Far SW Region	June 7
Near SW Region	June 20
Lord Fairfax	June 22
Eastern Shore	Late July
Fairfax	May 26
Pittsylvania-Danville	Late July
Rappahannock-Rapidan	June 21
- Health Districts and EP&R Regions continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

VDH ACTIVITIES – Regional Offices

• Northern Region

- Virginia Department of Emergency Management will conduct a seminar to explore the critical role of the government and emergency services during a pandemic flu. The Pandemic Flu Seminar will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on June 7, 2006, at George Mason University's Johnson Center. VDH will support. The seminar will include the following presentations and discussion:
 - * Overview/Update on Pandemic Influenza
 - * Overview of the Virginia Pandemic Influenza Health Plan
 - * Continuity of Operations in Northern Virginia:
 - Local Governments
 - Public Safety
 - Hospitals
 - * Community Containment

• Southwest Region

- As a part of EMS Week in Virginia, the Regional Planner gave a presentation to a group of 58 Rescue Squad Volunteers and paid transport personnel from Giles Lifesaving and Rescue Squad, Inc., Newport Volunteer Rescue Squad, Peterstown (W.Va.) Rescue Squad, the Giles Division of Carilion Transport Services, and Representatives of the Giles County Sheriffs Office. Covered PanFlu planning efforts that have taken place on a Federal, State, and Local Health District (New River HD) level.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Reports

• Piedmont

- MOU with Piedmont Geriatric Hospital signed allowing the use of their facility for Quarantine purposes.
- Results from the Physician Survey regarding interest and information needs on PanFlu planning for physician offices compiled. Based on this survey we will hold a series of informational sessions to accommodate differing schedules.
- Meeting with Region 8 School Superintendents to discuss Pan Flu on June 21.
- Meeting with Charlotte County Administrator regarding formation of PanFlu assessment team.
- Presentations to Farmville LEPC and District Environmental Health employees regarding PanFlu.
- Meeting with managers to plan for dispensing site drill in Cumberland County scheduled for June 9th.

• Hampton

- Met with City of Hampton School Nursing Supervisor and formed working group to develop "Infectious Disease Response Plan".
- Attending city sponsored "Preparedness Response Day" for Hampton neighborhoods.
- Met with Citizens Corps Executive Council and have invited them to Pan Flu working group, May30.
- Approached MMRS to review the Pandemic Self Assessment Tool.

• Henrico

- Prepared for community response to ABC movie (Fatal Contact: Bird Flu in America) concerning Avian Flu.

- Participated in an avian flu/pandemic flu presentation with VDH Director of Surveillance and Investigation to the Central Region Legislative Caucus held at the Greater Richmond Food Bank on May 11.
- Participated in Tuckahoe Town Hall meeting sponsored by Supervisor O'Bannon and presented information on pandemic flu preparedness to local citizens with focus on individual/family preparedness.
- Presented a public health update to the medical staff of Henrico Doctor's Hospital and included information and handouts concerning pandemic flu preparedness including individual/family preparedness checklist, medical office preparedness checklist and Henrico Medical Reserve Corps contact information.
- **Prince William**
 - Participated in Loudoun County CodeFlu 06 exercise planning.
 - Assisted Local nursing home with pandemic planning.
 - Assisted Home Owner's Association with planning efforts for a Pandemic Program for their CERT members.
 - Developed a strategy with CERT member to distribute the state pandemic DVD into the community.
 - Put together tear out information to be placed in the county employee paper over the next several weeks regarding personal preparedness.
 - Formed partnership with Voluntary Action Center and hired a part-time MRC Coordinator.
 - Completed draft of the public health portion of the District's pandemic plan.
 - Completed draft of CRI plan; working on draft of the mass fatality plan.
- **Central Virginia**
 - Hosted a Community Pandemic Influenza Summit on May 16, 2006 at Lynchburg College. Invitations were issued to about 200 local stakeholders. There were 110 positive replies. A total of 104 persons attended. Speakers included Secretary Tavenner; Virginia House Delegate (D-Lynchburg) Shannon Valentine, Katherine Nichols, MD, CVHD Director; Howard Podolosky, MD, JD, Sr VP and CMO CentraHealth; Morris Reece, Executive Director of the Near Southwest Planning Alliance; Susan Gardner, DVM, VDACS; Cheryle Rodriguez, VDH Regional PIO. Interest groups represented included: K-12 schools, colleges, local governments, emergency managers, hospitals, extended care facilities, home health agencies, physicians, businesses, day care centers, mental health organizations, the regional jail, service organizations, social services, funeral directors, and veterinarians. (Law enforcement had comprehensive pan flu presentations earlier in the year). Each attendee received a bound Pandemic Flu Resource Guide developed by the district. In an exhibit area there were information displays for each of ten interest areas. Resource packets, specific to each interest area, were available at each display. Many of the groups emerged from the meeting with outlines and sketched timelines of how they are going to address planning over the next six to twelve months. District staff will work with these groups to provide assistance with facilitated discussion, educational resources and speakers, as needed. The meeting was very well received. Press coverage, despite invitations issued to all local media outlets, was minimal. After a morning of formal talks the attendees met with their interest groups over lunch to identify and begin to discuss planning issues. The groups were asked to consider the following questions:
 - * What are the three top pandemic flu planning issues for your organization?
 - * What are you going to do to address these issues over the next 6-12 months?

* What are your planning resources?

* Who else do you need to involve/engage in your planning efforts?

- **Cumberland Plateau**

- CPHD prepared a stakeholder PanFlu Invitational letter to facilitate partnerships and agreements with the County decision makers to address emergencies including those that may occur around a possible human influenza pandemic.
- District Director, Epidemiologist, and Planner presented an overview on the topic of pandemic influenza, pandemic flu planning, and workplace preparedness to the Dickenson County Emergency Services Coordinator, a Board of Supervisor's member, a Cumberland Plateau Planning District representative, the County administrator, and Sheriff. Packets of supporting Pan Flu materials were provided to each member. The presentation was well received and commitments were made for their support and involvement in the pandemic flu planning process.
- Local school systems have requested help from the CPHD to address pandemic influenza preparedness.
- Hosted the Mountain Empire Public Health Emergency Coordination Council Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Committee teleconference. District Director Chaired the call. Participants called in from local public health agencies representing Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, and Kentucky Health Departments. July 20, 2006 was set as the new date for the Mountain Empire Regional Pandemic Influenza Summit, at Southwest Virginia Community College Higher Education Center, Abingdon, VA.
- CPHD pandemic influenza physician survey questionnaire and results of the CPHD local survey were made available to the Northwest VDH Region and the Northwest Regional Hospital Coordinator to help develop their questionnaires.
- Planner met with Russell County Emergency Services Coordinator to review, update, and revise the County's and District's All Hazards Emergency Operations Plan to ensure a coordinated and comprehensive response should avian influenza occur in humans.
- Planner coordinated updates of the CPHD All Hazards Emergency Operations Plan with the Russell County Medical Center to prepare for a comprehensive response should avian influenza occur in humans.
- Epidemiologist prepared a draft list of handouts and resource sheets for the Mountain Empire Regional Pandemic Influenza Summit.

- **Pittsylvania-Danville**

- Media Interview by District Epidemiologist: Channel 13 ABC TV interview stressed the importance of preparedness for the next pandemic of influenza. Personal protective measures for ourselves and others were discussed, such as staying at home when ill, washing hands frequently and covering mouths when coughing. During discussion of the television movie, Fatal contact: Bird Flu in America, the point was made that hopefully it would inspire preparedness, not panic.
- Danville Rotary Presentation by District Director: During this second pandemic influenza presentation for Danville Rotary by the Director, pandemic influenza was defined along with methods of transmission and preventive measures. H5N1 "bird flu" was described along with issues in vaccine development for any potential pandemic strain of influenza which might arise. Isolation and quarantine, business planning, the Health Department's lead role, community pandemic influenza planning committees, dispensing site drills, surveillance and disease investigation were also discussed along with the need for communities and families to develop plans. Among the audience were two physicians and three dentists.

- Community Action Plan address by District Director: Discussion of pandemic influenza and the importance of personal, family and community preparation by all of us. Stressed the need for us to consider our neighbors in our planning – those who might not be able to prepare adequately for themselves.
- 10th Grade High School Boys Health Class Address by District Epidemiologist: Topics included general discussion of pandemic influenza, probability of its occurrence (“when, not if”) and preparation for the event, which occurs on average 3 times during each century.
- **Rappahanock-Rapidan**
 - Met with representatives of both hospitals in the district on Surge planning.
 - Met with Culpeper County Sheriff's office on pandemic flu planning.
 - Posted the district Summit on TRAIN for registration.
 - Finalized invitations for the summit.
 - Mailed 200 additional “Save the Date” cards for the summit.
 - District Director gave a pandemic flu talk to the Culpeper County School Board.
 - Distributed videos to community partners in the last two of our five counties.
 - Finalized voice over powerpoint training - ready to be copied and distributed to hospital staff and first responder agencies.
- **Lord Fairfax**
 - District Epidemiologist presented information on pandemic influenza to the Warren County School nurses, counselors, and teachers.
 - District Epidemiologist participated in a health fair at the Our Health campus in Winchester and provided information on pandemic influenza.
 - Director met to discuss pandemic influenza preparedness with the President, Operations Senior Management, Vice President for Medical Affairs, Emergency Services Medical Director, Infection Control Medical Director, and Safety Director for Winchester Medical Center.
 - District Planner and Director participated in a day-long “Quad State Regional Emergency Preparedness Program”. This meeting brought together public health, State police, Sheriffs, Fire and Rescue, local police, government officials involved in emergency response, and others from Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley to discuss the obstacles of working across state boundaries and to collaborate on ways to diminish them. Pandemic influenza was included in these discussions and plans.
 - District Director was interviewed about Pandemic Influenza by a Northern Virginia Daily reporter as part of an upcoming article.
 - WINC radio conducted a 15 minute “Public Affairs” interview with Director concerning the upcoming Pandemic Influenza Summit the health district and the Marsh Institute of Shenandoah University are conducting. This spot will air over 3 radio stations over the next 2 weeks.
 - Distributing quarterly District Epi newsletter: includes a sign up form for MRC and the registration for the District's Pandemic Influenza Summit.